



NEWS RELEASE

18-141d

Date: Friday, August 3, 2018

District: 8 – Riverside/San Bernardino

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE

Cranston Fire Road Closure Status State Routes 74 and 243

RIVERSIDE – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in partnership with the California Highway Patrol (CHP), is pleased to announce the openings of State Route 243 (SR 243) and State Route 74 (SR 74) to the communities of Idyllwild, Mountain Center, Apple Canyon and Lake Hemet.

- SR 243 will reopen on Saturday, August 4, at 12:00 p.m. (Noon) to all traffic with **NO RESTRICTIONS.**
- SR 74 will reopen on Saturday, August 4, at 12:00 p.m. (Noon) **WITH RESTRICTIONS.** There will be pilot vehicle escorts on SR 74 between Lake Hemet and Mountain Center and again on SR 74 from Mountain Center to Valle Vista/Hemet.

MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED THAT THERE WILL BE AN APPROXIMATE 45-PLUS MINUTE DELAY ON SR 74 BETWEEN MOUNTAIN CENTER AND VALLE VISTA/HEMET TO ALLOW THE PILOT VEHICLE TO TAKE TRAFFIC IN ONE DIRECTION OF TRAVEL AND THEN RETURN.

MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED THAT THERE WILL BE AN APPROXIMATE 45-PLUS MINUTE DELAY ON SR 74 BETWEEN LAKE HEMET AND MOUNTAIN CENTER TO ALLOW THE PILOT VEHICLE TO TAKE TRAFFIC IN ONE DIRECTION OF TRAVEL AND THEN RETURN.

THE SPEED LIMIT FOR THE PILOT VEHICLE ESCORT WILL AVERAGE APPROXIMATELY 25 MILES PER HOUR. MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED NOT TO STOP AT TURN OUTS. PAY ATTENTION WHILE DRIVING FOR YOUR SAFETY AND OTHERS – DO NOT BE DISTRACTED WITH THE BURN AREA AS YOU TRAVEL WITH THE PILOT VEHICLE ESCORT! BE ADVISED THAT LONGER DELAYS MAY TAKE PLACE IN THE EVENT OF UNFORESEEN INCIDENTS DURING THE ESCORT PROCESS.

The CHP will continue to provide assistance at traffic control entry points. Caltrans and Ames Construction will continue work to make repairs to the fire-damaged routes with continued guardrail and sign installation, striping and erosion control work. Flagging and traffic holds will take place on both routes until the work is complete.

Motorists are advised to follow all commands and instructions from law enforcement and the work crews. **Please have patience** and be aware that this will continue to be an active work zone in the coming weeks and that we are working together to provide safe access to motorists during the restoration of the highway.

MORE



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SR's 74 and 243 are both subject to immediate closure in event of storms due to the possibly of flash flooding as a result of the Cranston Fire. Check for weather conditions before you travel and avoid travel during rain events indefinitely.

National Weather Service (Flash Flooding): <https://www.weather.gov/safety/flood-hazards>

Weather: <http://www.weather.gov/>

Road Closures: <http://quickmap.dot.ca.gov/>

Riverside County Emergency Management: <https://rivcoready.org/>



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BE WORK ZONE ALERT

